

Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of pending claims follows, with indicated amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of a computer network, comprising the steps of:

coupling a communications link between the headless server computer and a configuration computer, the communications link coupled at a USB port of each of the headless server computer and the configuration computer, wherein the headless server computer comprises a server computer that does not include a monitor, keyboard, mouse, and video card;

establishing data communication between the headless server computer and the configuration computer through the communications link and the USB ports of the headless server computer and configuration computer; and

communicating data between the headless server computer and the configuration computer to configure the software of the headless server computer.

2. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing data communication between the headless server computer and the configuration computer comprises the steps of,

transmitting from the configuration computer to the headless server computer a query concerning the identity of the headless server computer; and

receiving from the headless server computer data indicative of the identity of the headless server computer.

3. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining at the configuration computer whether the headless server computer is a USB-compliant device.

4. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of claim 3, further comprising the step of performing a configuration routine at the configuration computer on the basis of the identity of the headless server computer to permit the configuration computer to communicate with the headless server computer if the headless server computer is determined to be USB-compliant.

5. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of claim 4, further comprising the step of initiating configuration application software at the configuration computer.

6. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of claim 5, further comprising the steps of communicating between the configuration computer and the headless server computer to cause the headless server computer to initiate configuration application software at the configuration computer to permit data communication between the configuration computer and the headless server computer.

7. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of claim 1, wherein the configuration computer is a portable

computer.

8. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of a headless USB-compliant server computer of claim 1, wherein the configuration computer is a palmtop computer.

9-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring the software of a headless server computer, the headless server computer having the ability to transmit data according to a data transmission protocol that accommodates hot-swapping of peripherals and automatic identification of peripherals capability, comprising:

coupling a communications link between the headless server computer and a configuration computer, the communications link coupled at a port of each of the headless server computer and the configuration computer, the port having the capability of transmitting data according to the data transmission protocol, wherein the headless server computer comprises a server computer that does not include a monitor, keyboard, mouse, and video card;

establishing data communication between the headless server computer and the configuration computer through communications link and the ports of the headless server computer and the configuration computer; and

communicating data between the headless server computer and the configuration computer to configure the software of the headless server computer.

22. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless server computer of claim 21, wherein the step of establishing data communication between the headless server computer and the configuration computer comprises the steps of:

transmitting data from the configuration computer to the headless server computer a query concerning the identity of the headless server computer; and

receiving from the headless server computer data indicative of the identity of the headless server computer.

23. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless server computer of claim 22, further comprising the step of determining at the configuration computer whether the headless server computer has the ability to transmit data according to the data transmission protocol.

24. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless server computer of claim 22, further comprising the step of performing a configuration routine at the configuration computer on the basis of the identity of the headless server computer to permit the configuration computer to communicate with the headless server computer if the headless server computer is determined to have the ability to transmit data according to the data transmission protocol.

25. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless server computer of claim 24, further comprising the step of initiating configuration application software at the configuration computer.

26. (Previously Amended) The method for configuring the software of the headless server computer of claim 25, further comprising the steps of communicating between the configuration computer and the headless server computer to cause the headless server computer to initiate configuration application software at the configuration computer to permit data communication between the configuration computer and the headless server computer using a graphical user interface.